

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO GENEVA
GOVCANZONE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG/PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
REPORT - JUNE 11 - JUNE 17

1. NEGOTIATIONS. DURING THE FOURTH INTENSIVE SESSION OF
THE WEEK, THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS INFORMED OUR NEGOTIA-
TORS LATE ON JUNE 17 THAT THEY WOULD BE RETURNING TO PANAMA
FOR CONSULTATIONS. THE NEGOTIATORS AGREED THAT PUBLIC
STATEMENTS WOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE: QUOTE: THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY WERE RECESSED
FOLLOWING THE SESSION ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN ORDER THAT
THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS COULD RETURN TO PANAMA TO CON-
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SULT WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. DURING THE RECESS
THE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS WILL BE CONSULTING WITH
APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS HERE. FOLLOWING THE RECESS THE
TALKS WILL BE RESUMED AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED LATER.
UNQUOTE. WE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION IN OUR REPORT
OF NEXT WEEK.

2. CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS. AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ ON JUNE 15 BRIEFED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE ON THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. THOSE PRESENT INCLUDED MAJORITY LEADER WRIGHT, DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIRMAN FOLEY, CHIEF MAJORITY WHIP BRADEMANS, AND

MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MURPHY. ON JUNE 16, THE TWO AMBASSADORS, ACCOMPANIED BY ARMY SECRETARY ALEXANDER, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL ROGERS, AND GENERAL DOLVIN BRIEFED A GROUP OF FOURTEEN SENATORS ASSEMBLED BY SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BYRD. THOSE WHO ATTENDED WERE BELLMON, CASE, CRANSTON, CURTIS, EASTLAND, GOLDWATER, HUMPHREY, JACKSON, LAXALT, LONG, SARBANES, SPARKMAN, AND TOWER. THE TWO NEGOTIATORS MET PRIVATELY WITH SENATE MINORITY LEADER BAKER ON JUNE 15.

3. OASGA. SECRETARY VANCE MET JUNE 15 IN GRENADA WITH PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA. GONZALEZ-REVILLA MENTIONED SOME TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE SECRETARY. INSTEAD OF SUBMITTING A JOINT REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS THE TWO COUNTRIES DID IN 1975 AND 1976, GONZALEZ-REVILLA SUGGESTED THAT SEPARATE REPORTS BE MADE. THE PANAMANIAN REPORT WAS RELATIVELY MILD, AS WAS GONZALEZ-REVILLA'S SPEECH TO THE ASSEMBLY.

4. MEDIA COVERAGE. CANAL TREATY MEDIA COVERAGE FOCUSED ON THE OAS MEETING IN GRENADA WHERE SECRETARY VANCE AND PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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SEPARATE DECLARATIONS STATING THAT WHILE NO TREATY COULD BE ANNOUNCED, PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. SECRETARY WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE WAS HOPEFUL FOR AGREEMENT BY END OF SUMMER. NEW YORK TIMES QUOTES "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" AS SAYING "NEW DIFFICULTIES" AROSE THIS WEEK OVER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CANAL UNDER NEW TREATY. OTHER DIFFICULTIES CITED: ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND NEUTRALITY. JACK ANDERSON COLUMN OF JUNE 16 CITES "PANAMA-LIBYA SECRET DEAL" TO GIVE ARAB EXTREMISTS FOOTHOLD IN THE AMERICAS AND COOPERATE WITH ARAB BOYCOTT AGAINST JEWS.

5. PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION AT ILO. PANAMA IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE U.S. THROUGH INTERNATIONAL FORA AT THE GENEVA ILO CONFERENCE. PANAMANIAN WORKER DELEGATION HAS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION CHARGING U.S. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PANAMANIAN EMPLOYEES IN CANAL ZONE. THIS WAS SUPPORTED BY THE GOP REPRESENTATIVE IN A SPEECH ON JUNE 7.

6. CODEL SCOTT. ON JUNE 15 AMBASSADOR JORDAN CALLED ON SENATOR SCOTT (R-VA.) TO BRIEF HIM PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO PANAMA DURING THE JULY FOURTH RECESS. SCOTT WILL BE TRAVELLING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. VANCE

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